(a) whether it is a fact that production of major plantation crops have gone up considerably over the past three decades;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the domestic consumption has almost left stagnant exportable surplus in spite of the increased production;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any policy measures to help boost output through higher productivity and increased exportable surplus to increase the share of plantation crops in the overall export earnings of the country; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Every effort is being made to help boost output through higher productivity and increased exportable surplus to increase the share of plantation crops in the overall export earnings of the country, in respect of coffee and tea. However, so far as Rubber is concerned, every effort is being made to achieve self sufficiency in Natural Rubber production; the question of export surplus, therefore does not arise at this stage in case of rubber.

Value addition norm for electronic sector

44. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prescribed the value addition norm for the electronic sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether this move would boost exports of electronic products; and

(d) if so, what is the expected growth in exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of Standard input-output and value addition norms for Electronic items as notified *vide* Public Notice No. 121 dated 31-3-93 are contained in the Handbook of Procedures Vol. II, (incorporating amendments upto 31st March, 1993).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per Department of Electronic exports for electronic sector are expected to grow at over 40% p.a. during the Eighth Plan period.

Export of granite to Japan

45. SHRI P. UPENDRA :

DR. SANJAYA SINH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Japanese delegation has apprehended setback to granite exports from India because of the frequent changes in Government's policies and unstable supplies; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to safe-guard the granite industry and promote its export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Official Japanese delegations which visited India in September/October '92 and March '93, did not raise any issue regarding setback to granite exports from India to Japan because of frequent changes in Government's policies and the resultant unstable supplies. Japanese buyers, however, did express such an apprehension regarding future supplies of granite from India particularly in view of the restrictive mining policy being pursued by State Governments, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The matter has been taken up with the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to urge them to reconsider their mining lease policies so as to ensure uninterrupted supplies of granite blocks for export production of granite and granite products.